



## Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

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### NEWS AND EVENTS

- Register for EPA's National Asthma Forum, June 17-18, 2010, in Washington, D.C., to join leaders from the public health, health care, advocacy, research, school and nonprofit sectors in a discussion about effective asthma management strategies.
- **NEW report: *Healthier Students are Better Learners: A Missing Link in School Reforms to Close the Achievement Gap***. A research initiative of the Campaign for Educational Equity, this report links health to learning outcomes, of which asthma and asthma management are key factors.
- How does indoor air quality affect student performance? Visit the **IAQ and Student Performance** website to learn how a healthy and clean indoor environment is an essential factor in the well-being and productivity of students and staff.
- Visit EPA's **IAQ Tribal Partners Program** website to access resources for implementing school IAQ management programs in tribal communities, and learn what other tribal communities and organizations are doing to improve their schools' IAQ.

### CLAIM YOUR SPOTLIGHT: THE 2010 *IAQ TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS* AWARDS LAUNCH IS HERE!

Gain community buy-in and earn national recognition — apply for one of EPA's *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Awards to claim your spotlight in 2010! These prestigious awards honor highly effective and successful school IAQ management programs that have acted on their commitments to providing safe and healthy learning environments for their students and staff. Whether a school or district is just getting their program off the ground or it has an established, sustainable program, EPA honors champions of school IAQ excellence at all levels.

Over the last 11 years, EPA has awarded dozens of exceptional and inspiring school districts across the country with *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Awards. [Find out which districts have been honored in your state](#), and reach out to them to hear about their IAQ programs and how winning an EPA National Award has affected progress in their district.

#### UPCOMING WEBINAR! PEST PREVENTION: IPM IN SCHOOLS

Thursday, June 3, 2010, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Do you have pests in your school? To learn how integrated pest management (IPM) can be used effectively in schools, join a team of IPM experts including Sherry Glick from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs; Dr. Thomas A. Green, President of the IPM Institute of North America; Gregg Smith, Director of Facility Services, Salt Lake City School District; and Bob Stoddard, President of EnviroSafe. Don't miss your chance to learn safe and cost-effective pest management approaches! [Register today!](#)

#### ACCESS PAST E-MAIL UPDATES ONLINE

Can't find a past *IAQ Tools for Schools* Update in your e-mail inbox? No problem! Wish you could read past editions? You can! [Visit the Update archive](#) to access printable (PDF) versions of all past editions on the *IAQ Tools for Schools* website.

**EPA honors award winners in both competitive and non-competitive award categories.** Read below for more details and see which award is right for your school district.

#### **Competitive Awards:**

- The [National Excellence](#) and [National Model of Sustained Excellence](#) Awards are presented to school districts that have applied EPA's **Framework for Effective School IAQ Management** to shape outstanding, sustainable programs.
- The [National IAQ Tools for Schools Connector Award](#) recognizes organizations and individuals who are supporting and promoting successful school IAQ management in their communities.
- Applications for competitive awards are due Friday, October 8, 2010, but don't wait! [Get started](#) on your application before summer break.
- **Are you planning to apply?** Let us know! E-mail us at [awardscoordinator@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:awardscoordinator@cadmusgroup.com), and we'll contact you over the summer to answer any questions you may have.

#### **Non-Competitive Awards:**

- The [National Great Start](#) and [National Leadership](#) Awards applications are accepted year-round for school districts that initiate or take action to establish IAQ management programs in their districts.
- **Apply today to shine a light on your IAQ management program in your community and to the nation!**
- Winners of the competitive **National Excellence, National Model of Sustained Excellence and National IAQ Tools for Schools Connector Awards** will be provided one fully paid scholarship to Washington, D.C., to attend the *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium, January 13-15, 2011. At the Symposium, competitive award winners will be honored at the Awards Ceremony, and be included in an EPA press release that will shine national media attention on their achievements.
- Winners of the non-competitive National Great Start and National Leadership Awards receive recognition on EPA's website, a formal certificate and a letter of recognition signed by an EPA official.

The application deadline for the competitive awards is Friday, October 8, 2010; [don't wait to apply!](#) Help spread the word to other schools in your district or individuals in your community who are active connectors working to promote healthy environments for students and staff.

For a more detailed description of each award category, or for more information about the application process, [download the Awards flyer](#) or visit the [National Awards Program website](#).

## **INSIGHT INTO EXCELLENCE: KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Keller Independent School District (KISD) is moving up the awards ranks — and you can too! Below, learn how this Texas school district initiated and propelled their IAQ management program forward to win the National Great Start, National Leadership and a 2010 National Excellence Award, earning them national recognition at the 10th *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium.

**A School District With a Great Start** – After discovering in 2008 that the majority of the district's absences were asthma-related, the wheels began to turn for KISD's administration. They aimed to create a healthier learning environment for their students that would reduce absences and increase their average daily attendance (ADA) based state funding, creating a positive feedback loop of investment into student, school and community health. As a result of their commitment, the district was awarded the [National Great Start Award](#) that year.

**Leading the Way to Manage IAQ** – KISD used the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance to aggressively address sources of indoor air pollution. They started by assessing school buildings and grounds, performing walkthroughs to ensure classrooms, hallways and school cafeterias were clean and clear of indoor pollutants. Performing routine walkthroughs and inspections strengthened the district's capacity to identify and proactively respond to environmental issues. These important actions formed the basis for KISD being awarded the [National Leadership Award](#) in 2008.

#### **JOIN THE DISCUSSION**

The Schools IAQ Connector Listserv makes it easy to connect directly with your peers to share information and communicate over e-mail and on the Web. **Join the listserv today** by sending a blank e-mail message to [schools\\_iaq\\_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov](mailto:schools_iaq_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov). Then, check your e-mail inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

How KISD won the [National Excellence Award](#) and a trip to the *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium in Washington, D.C. – Institutionalizing IAQ management through a culture of open communication has been KISD's key to success. Communicating openly with teachers, administrators and custodial staff has given them the tools and resources they need to observe, assess and communicate concerns from peers and students. It has also empowered and developed a sense of ownership among staff to take action to achieve healthier IAQ in their schools. As a result, EPA awarded KISD the [National Excellence Award](#).

[Contact KISD](#) to hear more about the actions they took to develop their IAQ management program to the Great Start, Leadership and Excellence Award levels.

## INSPIRING ACTION: IAQ DESIGN CHALLENGE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE — MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS

Since participating in the 10th [IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium](#) in January 2010, Memphis City Schools has continued to carry out their comprehensive IAQ management program in their school district. Memphis now holds regular meetings with their IAQ management team to foster two-way communication between the school community and those involved in day-to-day facilities management, including representatives from the Office of Risk Management, the Chief of School Operations and representatives from Custodial Grounds and Operations.

In addition, the district is moving forward with their pilot project to measure the impact of IAQ management in the learning environment. They have enlisted the assistance of *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program Faculty Brian Kasher and Phil Berman of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and representatives from EPA Region 4 to help them implement the pilot project and develop the capacity to conduct future evaluations.

Stay tuned for more updates from all five of our [IAQ Design Challenge School Districts](#) as they work to develop effective, sustainable IAQ management programs in their districts!

### HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ Tools for Schools* Update? Need more information or have a quick question? Do you have suggestions for a Webinar, an Update feature, or are you simply curious about an IAQ topic and would like more information? If so, send us an e-mail at [IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com).

**Share YOUR news and events!** Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next Update. E-mail your news to [IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com).

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program is a comprehensive resource to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program at [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools).